Abstract of the Disclosure

A process useful for making ondansetron that comprises reacting a carbazolone in a reaction mixture comprising a carbazolone of formula (2), a formaldehyde or precursor thereof, and an amine of formula (3) in a non-aqueous polar solvent and in the presence of a water binding agent. The reaction product(s) can be reacted with an amine of formula (5) to form ondansetron. The water binding agent can improve the yield and/or speed of the reaction.

$$CH_3$$
 CH_3
 CH_3